THE BOMBAY COURIER EXTRA.

WEDNESDAY, 4 JUNE, 1834.

The *Berwickshire* from London, March the 10th, arrived at a late hour yesterday with the following passengers:—Lieut. E. W. Kenworthy for Malacca, Messrs. H. F. Vincent, P. L. Hart, B. H. Combe, C. I. Baker, and R. Boyce, Cadets on this Establishment.

By this vessel, which has made a remarkably short passage of 85 days, we have received London papers up to the 8th of March. These however, contain very little news. A summary of continental and domestic intelligence, and some of the more important debates in Parliament, will be found below.

SPECTATOR,—MARCH 1.

The landowners made a scramble on Thursday night to clutch and pocket the 1,200,000*l.* surplus revenue, with which Lord Althorp had promised to relieve the necessities and appease the murmurs of the shopkeepers and householders of the Metrepolis. But they miscarried: their boasted strength failed them on the division: and the House voted, by a majority of 272 to 170, that the Malt-tax should remain entire. The defeat may, indeed, have been owing in some measure to the eccentricity of Sir William Ingilby, who acted as their leader on the occasion: and who contrived to cover a very serious proposition with ridicule, by connecting it with a number of whimsical plans of his own, for the purpose of making good the deficiency of five millions, which the repeal of the Malt-tax would create. Had the motion been brought forward gravely and with tolereble discretion, the issue might not have been so melancholy to the "large-acred" gentlemen. But the necessity of imposing a Property-tax in the place of the one proposed to 0e abolished, became so apparent in the course of the discussion, as the impolicy of every other substitute, one after another, was demonstrated,—that a split in the agricultural ranks became inevitable; and the victory fell to Ministers and their supporters, the representatives of the commercial interests and the dwellers in cities. So far we hold that all is for the best. It is difficult to conceive of any thing more unreasonable than the demands of the landed interest. They refuse to repeal the Corn-laws; they insist upon retaining their monopoly of barley; they utterly repudiate a Property-tax; they pretend to be filled with indignation at the mention of any plan for reducing the interest on the Debt; and yet they clamour for the reduction of five millions of taxes for their own especial benefit! To be sure, they offered to reimpose the duty on beer: but that, as Lord Althorp proved, would be a most iniquitous proceeding; inasmuch as the tax would be paid almost wholly by the poor, who buy what they consume from day to day, while the men of great establishments would brew at home, and escape the tax altogether. Then they were also willing to lay an additional tax on gin; a very disinterested proposition, truly, from these men of claret; but unluckily, it was shown that an additional tax would not produce an additional revenue; and that instead of decreasing the numbers of gin-drinkers, the consequence of adopting their wise suggestion would be to augment the bands of smugglers and illicit distillers. There was no refuting these arguments, which were based on fact and financial experience. It was plain, therefore, that a Property-tax, or a breach of the national faith, must be resorted to if the Malt-tax is repealed: and we agree with Mr. Benett in thinking, that those Members only were justified in voting for the motion, who were prepared to agree to the imposition of a Property-tax.

In this debate, Sir Robert Peel deserted Lord Chandos and his Tory associates, and spoke and voted with Ministers; another proof of how lightly he hangs upon his former party, and of his gradual approximation to the Whigs and to office.

The division on this motion had scarcely been declared, when Lord Althorp gave notice, that on Thursday next he would bring in a bill for the repeal of the House-tax; thus marking the nature and the result of the victory just obtained over the landed Opposition.

The discriminating duties on East and West India Sugar were last night voted for another year. It is not improbable that they have been voted for the last time. The general feeling of the House, in which Lord Althorp, Mr. Stanley, and Sir Robert Peel participated, was, that a very short period could be allowed to elapse before the East and West must be put on a par with each other in regard to commercial privileges. It was indeed to risk the success of the Emancipation Act by a precipitate abolition of the monopoly of the slave owners. But Mr. Stanley said, that the West Indians must take the discussion of last night as an intimation of the measures they had to look for. The meaning of this is, that the planters must shortly expect to be ruined. Even with the aid of their monopoly, they can with difficulty struggle on; what will they do when deprived of it? Here again it is worth while to note the part which Sir Robert Peel took. An ill-informed person might suppose from his speech, that he had always been the advocate of "justice" to the East Indians; whereas the whole tenor of his official life proves the reverse. This politician must be gifted with unparalleled powers of face.

Disaffection to the Government appears to be spreading in France. On Sunday last, there was some serious rioting in and about the Place de la Bourse, in consequence of several persons attempting to sell unlicensed newspapers, which it was the object of the recently-enacted law to suppress. The multitude was dispersed by the police and military, not without bloodshed. A vivid descriptipn of the scene will be found in the letter of O. P. Q.

A law for the suppression of associations has been introduced into the Chamber of Deputies, by M. Barthe, the French Chancellor. The Ministers admit that the aspect of public affairs is very serious; and therefore they require new powers of enforcing the 291st article of the Imperial Penal Code, which forbids more than twenty persons to associate themselves together. This law has hitherto been evaded, by the people dividing themselves into sections, and electing deputies to represent them. It is a wretched symptom, and a striking proof of conscious weakness, in any Government which is forced to resort to such measures for its preservation, as have been adopted lately by the Ministry of Louis Philip. These measures prove beyond all controversy, that the French Government dares not rely for support upon the affection and respect of the nation. It is suggested that they are justifiable because necessary for the preservation of the throne, and every Government has a right to provide for its own security. This excuse has served many a tyrant before the days of Louis Philip, and may be urged in defence of the very worst measures of despots. These laws against the press and laws against associations must remind every one of the latter days of Charles the Tenth and Polignoc. A similar explosion to that which dethroned his predecessor, will, it is probable, send Louis Philip once more into exile.

The Lyons workmen and their masters have agreed to terms of accommodation: at least this is the report which, the Government journals say has been received in Paris by telegraph. A Republican movement had taken place at St, Etienne; considerable bodies of troops had been sent to repress it. It was feared at Lyons that another outbreak would be occasioned there by this news.

The East India Company have communicated to their employes in Leadenhall Street, the Scale of compensation to be given them. All of ten years standing are to have two-thirds salary for life, or a commutation in money; the scale descends gradually from this to those only a year in the employment, who get a year's salary on dismissal.

Sir John Cambell has lost his election for Dudley. The Tories and Radicals, the latter of whom were indignant at his prosecution of the *True Sun*, coalesced to support Mr. Thomas Hawkes, who obtained a majority of 322 to 242. A good deal of rioting took place after election was over.

THE METROPCLIS.

A dispute between the East India Company and the Metropolitan tea-dealers has produced a good deal of excitement in the City during the week. The tea-dealers maintain that the quantity offered for sale by the Company—namely, nine millions of pounds, being half a million of pounds more than was offered at the last December sale—is more than they were then given to understand would be brought forward; and that their purchases were made upon that understanding. They therefore made a demand upon the Company to take back at the selling prices all the tea not cleared out of the warehouses, purchased at the last sale, and amounting to upwards of two millions of pounds. The Company refused to do this; and consequently the opposition to the sale was so great on Monday last, that no tea could be sold, and the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday. A committee of tea-dealers was appointed to prepare a memorial to the Board of Directors; in which they demand that all the teas uncleared up to the present sale should be taken back by the Company, was formally made. This memorial was sent to the Board; and on Tuesday morning another attempt was made to proceed with the sale; but the dealers demanded an answer to their memorial in the first place, and the sale was again adjourned to one o'clock. At that hour, the presiding Director Mr. Wigram, again took the chair; and the reply of the Directors to the memorial was read. It expressed their determination to proceed, if possible, with the sale; they refused to take back the uncleared teas, or to lessen the quantity of teas now offered for sale. The Directors said that the quantity of uncleared tea was not large and that the demand was sufficient to justify the increased quantity offered to the trade. They also reminded the tea-dealers, that, taking into account the amount rejected in December last, which was 600,000 pounds, the quantity now offered scarcely exceeded the average of last year, which was 8,300,000 pounds: they were therefore not glutting the market. This reply to their memorial was so exceedingly unsatisfactory to the tea-dealers that they again refused to buy; and the sale was once more adjourned to Wednesday. On that day, the sale-room was crowded by eleven o'clock,—the hour appointed for receiving the report of the Committee of the trade, as to the steps which should be adopted. It was decided that no further opposition should be given to the progress of the sale. The sale accordingly commenced soon after twelve; but instead of the usual brisk work, the lots were put up very tardily, and almost all purchased by Messrs. Varnham and Co. The upset price of bohea was 1*s.* 4*d.*; the bidding was 1*s.* 4¼*d.*, at which nearly the whole was sold, instead of reaching 1*s.* 9*d.* to 1*s.* 10*d.* as at the last sale. Whenever, as once or twice happened, more than 1*s.* 4¼*d.* was offered, the bidder was hissed. The teas bought by Varnham and Co. are bought by an arrangement for the trade. The sale was adjourned till the next day.

On Thursday, soon after ten, Mr. Alexander, one of the Directors, took his seat as Chairman in the sale-room. Mr. Varnham said that the trade would not purchase till they had justice done them: the buyers were ready to return the teas bought yesterday, if their demands were conceded. Mr. Alexander said he had no power to give an answer; but would adjourn the sale till one, and consult the Board. The sale was accordingly adjourned till two. Mr. Mills, a Director, then took the chair; and informed the dealers that the Board had decided not to alter their resolution relative to taking back the uncleared teas, but had determined to withdraw 580,000 pounds of teas refused at the last sale. After some discussion, in which the dealers expressed their strong dissatisfaction with the resolution of the Board, the sale was again adjourned till the next day. Yesterday accordingly, the sale was recommenced. The first lot was knocked down to Mr. Varnham at 1*s.* 4¼*d.*; a few lots were sold at 1*s.* 5½*d.*, and some at 1*s.* 7¾*d.* a pound. Boheas were the only kind sold, and 1*s.* 4¼*d.* the usual price. The day's selling closed at one, after a considerable quantity had been disposed of. It is expected that the sale will continue for some days.

TIMES, MARCH 3.

The Consol-market is firm, with occasional slight fluctuations, but on the whole with a tendency to advance. Money continues abundant, and the effect of it is much increased by large accumulation in the hands of the East India Company. It is anticipated from this state of things, rather than from any positive information on the subject, that Lord Althorp will in the course of the present session, bring forward a measure for the reduction of the 4 per Cents., in which there would not be any difficulty, and the small amount of that stock, which is under 12,000,000*l.*, renders the proceeding less objectionable with a party here, who condemn all such reductions as throwing a large surplus capital on the market, which, for want of employment, is driven into all extravagant schemes and undertakings. The dissentients, in regard to a conversion into stock of a lower denomination, could comprise a very large portion of the holders of the 4 per Cents., and it strikes all practical men as an incongruity that merchants and bankers of credit raise money at 2½ or 3 per cent. while the Government is paying 4 per cent.

Consols have closed at 91 for the April account and Exchequer-bills at 49*s.* to 50*s.* premium. India stock is 253 to 254.

MARCH 7.

In the House of Lords last night, Earl Grey stated, in answer to a question from Lord Ellenborough, that a bill for the commutation of tithes was in preparation, and that the subject would be introduced at a very early day. In answer to a question from the same noble Lord, Earl Grey stated that a measure would be introduced for the commutation of church rates, but that that measure would be distinct from the Tithe Commutation Bill. It will be recollected, that in the House of Commons on Friday last, Lord Althorp promised, if an opportunity were afforded him, to open to the House his plan for the commutation of tithes before the recess, stating, however, at the same time, that he feared he should not be able to introduce the measure itself until after the recess. It will be remembered also, that Lord Althorp gave notice on Monday last, that on the 7th of April he would call the attention of the House to the subject of church rates.

MARCH 8.

The great failure in New York adverted to yesterday is that of S. and M. Allen, brokers, for 95,000,000, besides which we have accounts of the failure of Cephas Miles and Co., general merchants and agents, of the same place, for $3,500,000. In all there have occurred, including those abovementioned, eleven failures in New York, there in Philadelphia, four in Boston, one in Salem, and one in Glocester. None of them, taken separately, are to so large an amount as those referred to above, but they are all on a large scale, and in the aggregate do not fall, probably much short of Dls 20,000,000. The calamity has chiefly fallen on the money-brokers whose trade necessarily exposed them to the first shock of it, but the merchants and shipowners and manufacturers have come in for a large share of the effects. In forming a true judgement of a crisis like this, it must be borne in mind that at such a time the failures do not necessarily imply insolvency for in fact most houses which are hard pressed upon in so tremendous a difficulty, or rather impossibility, in realizing assets of any kind must stop payment, though it may turn out, when matters return to their natural state, that there is a large surplus in hand, after all claims are satisfied Until this occur, however, much anxiety and doubt will prevail as to the result. A very general misapprehension exists here relative to the rate of exchange, which, being at 98, is described as 2 per cent. below par; but the par exchange between New York and London being, in effect, about 108, the exchange is 10 per cent. below par. In considering the possible action of this state of things on America in the monied interest of London, we do not find that much apprehension as yet exists. Several houses are making preparations for the transmission of bullion to New York, and it is calculated that from Dls.500,000 to Dls.1,000,000 will be shipped in the course of next week, but in other respects no influence is apparent in the general transactions of the money-market. The shock is likely to be felt more seriously in the manufacturing districts of the north of England, and more in the woolen than in the cotton trade. It fortunately occurs, however, that the opening of the trade with China, now near at hand, is directing commercial enterprise to that quarter, in a degree which may more than compensate for the blow it has sustained in the United States, and thus avert all material injury from this country.

SPECTATOR,—MARCH 8.

The Parliamentary business of the week was commenced in the manner most agreeable to Ministers of State—that is, by placing at their disposal a large amount of the public money. The Army Estimates were brought forward on Monday, by Mr. Ellice; and a short time sufficed to vote away three millions and a half sterling. The House of Commons was good-humoured, and accommodating. Even Mr. Hume seemed to consider that it would be too bad to treat Mr. Ellice to the same lectures with which he tried the temper of Lord Palmerston in days of yore. The present Secretary at War has got the knack of managing the Economical section of the Opposition. Whenever a vote is denounced as exorbitant or unnecessary, he makes a point of confidential communication to them: such as "You've no notion what trouble I have taken to meet your views in this matter"—"I have written and spoken to Lord Hill about it, but he will not agree to any thing of the sort"—"You had better leave it all in my hands, and you will see what I will do for you next session." Now, with all due respect for Mr. Ellice's powers of management we think that when he brings forward a motion which he is obliged to apologize for in this fashion, the duty of the House of Commons is to negative it—to refuse him the money; a certain and most proper method of bringing the haughty spirits at the Horse Guards to submit to economical reforms in the Army. We do not see the propriety of bringing Lord Hill forward to bear the blame of a transaction for which the Secretary at War is answerable to the House of Commons. Of course Lord Hill will be glad of as much money for the Army as the House of Commons can be prevailed upon to vote; but it is paltry in Mr. Ellice to put Lord Hill forward as his shield, and blameable in the Members of the House to suffer him to squander the public money from behind it. Of the Estimates themselves we have already spoken, and also of the creditable manner in which the accounts of the Army have been presented to the House of Commons.

A subject of great public interest and importance—that of impressment of seamen—was discussed on Tuesday. Mr. Buckingham, in a speech which has been justly characterized as able and persuasive moved for Committe to consider of devising some means of manning our s[illegible] without having recourse to press-gangs. Public opinion runs strongly against this cruel, and impolitic practiceof impressment. Ministers dare no longer offer any direct defenceof it. Their tone has changed since last session; and the only way in which Sir James Graham ventured to meet Mr. Buickingham's motion was by moving for leave to bring in a bill, the express object of which is to provide seamen forthe fleet without having recourse to impressment.

Mr. BUCKINGHAM'S motion was rejected by 218 to 130. This is not surprising; for Mr. Buckingham himself committed the mistake of admitting the right of the Crown to press seamen upon an emergency. He thus backed out of the grand principle of his own proposal. It became a question with many foes to impressment, whether the mover or the Minister had the best of it. Sir James Graham declarad (and we have no right or reason to believe him insincere in the declaration), that impressment should never be used except in the last resort; and Mr. Buckingham in point of fact did not propose to deprive Sir James of on little of the power to press seamen in cases of emergency. For who are to be judges of the necessity of the case? According to Mr. Buckingham, the Privy Council. And from whom will the Privy Council in such cases seek for advice and information? Why, from the Admiralty, to be sure; and thus according to the principle which Mr. Buckingham concedes, the seamen would have little more protection than they have at present.

Impresment ought to be declared illegal in all cases; it ought to be utterly abolished by act of Parliament. Should "an emergency" occur in which it should be found absolutely necessary, an act of Parliament, authorizing impressment for a limited period, might be passed in an extremely short time. The dearest rights of freemen are not to be placed at the mercy of any set of persons who may happen to form his Majesty's Council. But there never was a more palpable failure than the attempt to prove that impressment ever could be necessary, under a judicious system of naval discipline. Why, even, in time of peace with no prospect whatever of a war, we keep 27,000 seamen and marines in pay. Yet Sir James Graham and Lord Althorp talk as if every vessel in our Navy was deserted, and as if our coasts might be blockaded in six days by some unknown and unexpected enemy. For a sudden emergency, we are, or ought to be, better prepared than any other nation in the world; and if our seamen were well paid, not merely for the exercise of their brute force and bravery, but for the skill which they have acquired as seamen, and for which they have as good a right to charge the nation that uses it is one tradesman has to charge another for the merchandise he sells, then there would be no difficulty at any time in cramming our veseels of war with picked seamen. Has Sir James Graham ever gone on board of an American frigate? If he has he must have seen the deck crowded with fine athletic fellows—no old men, and scarcely a boy among them—all first-rate seamen, picked out of a mercantile navy of seventy or eighty thousand sailors, eager to obtain the pay and provisions of a vessel of war. There was no pressgang used to force such men to fight the battles of their country. They were well treated, and well paid; and when our rules shall learn to treat British seamen in the same manner, they will find no lack of naval volunteers. Sir James Graham's scheme is to registers all the seamen of the country and take those required for the naval service by ballot. It was truly remarked by Mr. Hume, that this plan must fail: the seamen will only regard it as a plot to catch them more securely. Re istration may be resorted to with success after the formal abolition fo impressment, but not before.

There was an unusually full attendance of Members at the morning sitting on Tuesday, when Lord Ebrington presented the Devonshire petition for a commutation of Tithes. Mr. Parrott, Member for Totness, explained, that the intentions of the petitioners were different from what they have been generally supposed to be. They did not wish that a tenth of the rent should be substituted for a tenth of the produce; but that the whole of the land liable to tithe should be fairly valued, as if it were free of burden of every kind; that a tenth part of that should be set aside as the titheowners's share, subject to all the charge to which the other parts are liable. The amount of gain or loss to the titheowner would vary according to the circumstances. That he would generally be a loser by the arrangement, however, is the expectation of the petitioners. Supposing this to be the case, let us glance at its mode of operations on the rentals of landed proprietors.

Were *all* land now tithable, the gain to the landowners, on a general abolition of tithe, would be tolerably equal. But there is a considerable portion of the land tithe-free, and which on that account yields an increased rent to the landlord. Why should it yield an increased rent? Plainly because the cultivator is not so heavily burdened as his neighbour who has to pay the tithe. But if the latter is relieved from payment of tithe, the advantage possessed by the farmer who was tithe-free before, disappears. Either, therefore, his rent must be lowered, or that of his competitor will be raised, or the one will fall while the other rises, till a sort of average is struck; and a portion of the property of the owner of the land which was tithe-free before, passes into that of the person whose land the Legislature has only lately freed from tithe altogether,—or a portion of it only, as the Devonshire petitioners require; that is merely a question of degree. Would this be equitable?

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A bill for the Repeal of the stupid and hateful Foreign Enlistment Act has been again introduced by Mr. J. A. Murray. We hope that, this session, Lord Brougham will not go out of his way to cushion it, as he did the last.

The House of Commons has so far done its duty as regards the Boroughs—emphatically Rotten—of Carrickfergus, Stafford, and Warwick. There was a hardy band of five members who opposed the second reading of the bill for disfranchising Stafford: but the majority numbered 167, and what were five among so many?

Lord Althorp brought in his promised bill for the repeal of the House-tax on Thursday. The householders will be in luck if they get this tax abolished after all; for that most unfortunate Chancellor of the Exchequer has, we fear, reckoned without his host in calculating upon so large an increase in the tea-duties. The proceedings at the India House during the week must have blighted his financial prospects.

The Landed Interest triumphed in the House of Commons last night. On Thursday, Mr. Hume moved for a Committee to inquire into the Corn-laws, with the view to substitute a fixed for the present fluctuating duty, and to grant a fixed equivalent bounty on the export of corn. The debate occupied almost the whole of Thursday and Friday, and terminated in a division of 312 to 155 against the motion. The majority, though a large one, is not larger than was expected. The Ministers have been earnestly and successfully exerting themselves in favour of the monopolists. They made a point of securing not merely a majority, but as large a majority as possible; and with this view, they applied to Lord Darlington to withdraw and an amendment of which he had given notice, fearing that it might divide the opponents of the motion: this was expressly stated, last night by Lord Darlington himself. The opposition seems to have been, from first to last, adroitly got up. Sir James Graham, who has avowed himself the author of the Report of the Agricultural Committee of last session, seems to have drawn it up with a view to its bearing on the expected attack on the Corn-laws. Then came the allusion in the King's Speech to the distress of the landed interest: and next the refusal of Ministers to repeal any tax of importance that bore hardly upon that interest. All this appears to have been done with the express intention of strengthening the claim of the landlords to the continuance of their monopoly. Taking these circumstances into account, the majority is not after all alarming.

Mr. HUME was not very successful in his manner of bringing the question forward. There was a want of simplicity and comprehensiveness in his views. In common with every other speaker in the debate, he appeared to lose sight of the grand telling argument in favour of a free trade in corn—that it would tend to produce a universal increase of things useful and desirable to mankind, or in other words, a vast accession to the wealth and comfort of all classes in all nations. This great point was not well brought out by any of the supporters of the motion, Colonel Torrens, arguing on scientific principles, made the most effective speech. Mr. Poulett Thomson was too lengthy; and overlind his argument with quotations, which, however well they might serve to demolish Sir James Graham, were both stupid and old. Besides, as long as Mr. Thomson continues the member of a Government, to the heads of which he is opposed on the most important of all questions he will labour under the suspicion of insincerity. Lords Morpeth and Howick delivered brief, manly, and honest speeches in favour of the motion. Indeed, it appears from the list of the division, that almost every member of the Government, not in the Cabinet—including Mr. Littleton, Mr. Ellice, Mr. Charles Wood, and Lord Duncannon—voted for the motion. These members, in fact, had no choice: they all represent manufacturing or commercial constituencies,—except Lord Howick, who on all questions chooses to take his own way. Sir James Graham stood forward as the champion of the landed interest and unsaid almost all that he had ever uttered on the subject of debate. Mr. Baring was happy in catching the tone of the House, and in speaking to the breeches-pockets of the landowners. His speech is principally remarkable for its tone of triumphant insolence which was peculiarly acceptable to the landed majority. Poor Lord Althorp said a few words very much to the point—that all the Cabinet Ministers would divide against Mr. Hume. As for himself, he could not make a speech on the occasion; because, as he avowed he agreed with the mover, and yet was going to vote against him. Most candid of Ministers!

The petition of the vine-growers in the South of France has created a great sensation in the capital. It seems to be generally looked upon as a very serious demonstration of the state of public feeling in that quarter; and is said to have baffled the Ministry exceedingly. M. Thiers is especially annoyed by it. He will scarcely venture to proceed with his miserable tariff, in the face of such a warning as this petition has given him. Yet the Chambers are said to be hostile to a more liberal measure. But then, the Chambers notoriously do not represent the French nation: the majority in both are the hired servants of the Government, in every thing where their own personal interest does not operate with still greater force.

The Finance Committee of the Senate of the United States have reported strongly against the removal of the deposits from the United States Bank; which they pronounce to have been "unnecessarily early, and unnecessarily sudden." The effects of this measure are declared to be disastrous in the extreme. There is quite a commercial panic in the country. Numerous heavy failures have occurred, and money is worth two per cent a month. If this state of things continue, the funds, which it is said some British capitalists have forwarded to America, will come to a good market. Old President Jackson is as firm as ever.

FRANCE.

THE state of France is still variable. The government vacillates, and public opinion takes a thousand varieties of tone from day to day. Two things, however are certain, that the mass of the people is discontented, and that the Citizen Monarch has failed to establish his rule in the hearts of his subjects.

The disturbances which were apprehended on Sunday and Monday last at Paris, in consequence of the new law against the diffusion of cheap political papers, did not occur. There were gatherings of people, and occasional collisions with the authorities, but the affair was rather a parade of the force at the command of government than an *emeute* on the part of the populace. The proprietor of the *Bon Sens* and *Le Populaire*, was prevented from approaching the *bourse* to sell his papers, and so the seizure and rescue were avoided.

On the 25th, however, the government brought down the project of a law for the suppression of republican societies. Any association of more than twenty persons is forbidden. Every member of such society becomes punishable by imprisonment, of from two to twelve months, and a fine of from 50 to 1000 francs, the punishment and fine to be double at each repetition of the offence, the trial to take place before the tribunal of correctional police, and in cases of an attempt on the safety of the state to be before the chamber of peers. The promulgation of the law has created as much agitation as that which was caused by the Coercion Bill in Ireland.—*Atlas, March 2.*

HOUSE OF COMMONS,—FEB. 28;

ARMY ESTIMATES.

Mr. Ellice rose to present the lowest estimate which had occurred since the union with Ireland. (Hear.) He would reduce three officers, a Colonel of a Ceylon regt., and two 2d Majors of Cavalry. The reductions in rank and file would be—cavalry, 550; fortguards, 550; infantry, 6640; the whole amount of money saved 200,000*l.* On the efficient land force the saving was 111*l.* 15s. 2d. On the staff nearly 2000*l.*, and in the public department 4,314*l.* 19s. 2d. He asked nothing for the Irish volunteer corps (Hear.) and he would reduce the yeomanry training pay to 3s. 6d. per man instead of 7s. He had saved a considerable sum from the allowance to officers' tables, and as to the guards, he had found that not one shilling more was expended on them than on any like number of troops of the line. ("Hear," from Mr. Hume.) He would shew the hon. mem. documents to prove his assertion. He had attended to every suggestion of the committee, excepting the reduction proposed in the staff at head quarters. He would wind up the affairs of Kilmainham Hospital, and transfer its necessary portions to the Irish ordnance department, and remove the infirmary to Island Bridge. The board for controlling any accounts abroad, and the officer's half-pay department, would be consolidated with the office of Secretary at War. Perhaps, too, the commissariat might be removed from the treasury to the war department, and it was also intended to restrain the half-pay of all those who were to enter the army in future. For what he had effected, and what he proposed, he hoped the House would give him credit. He would not reduce the pay of the private soldier, and the pay of officers was the same now as at the battle of Minden. The soldier was popular every where, and the admirable conduct of the army merited the confidence and gratitude of the country. For the present no more could be done. Let them wait another year, and greater reductions might be effected. He, therefore, moved that the land forces should number 88,950 men.....Mr. Hume must in candour admit that during his whole parliamentary life a more explicit, a more open and more manly exposition never fell from a public servant of the crown. (Hear, hear,) No estimate could be more fairly and candidly explained. He took credit to himself to find things in process of execution, which fifteen years ago he had been considered insane for proposing; he could not agree, however, that this was the lowest estimate. There were more men than the Duke of Wellington had left. A million of money was added to these estimates in Earl Grey's first year, and now credit was taken for reducing it back to what the duke had left it. The colonies might be governed without troops, if they were trusted with their own legislature, and it would be cheaper to bring the Irish parsons here, and support them till they die off, than to keep the standing army in Ireland for their protection. In 1822 the Tories had reduced the army to 68,000 men; why should a reformed Parliament grant 20,000 more now? He would, therefore, move that the numbers of the effective force be 72,268 men . . . . Mr. Secretary Stanley said it was part of the honourable member's calling to outbid the government on all matters of economy. He could not see that the estimates were reduced by 300,000*l.* No; he wanted fewer men—a saving in his own way. The proposed estimate would give the colonies 1,700 men more than they had in 1792; but 1,800 were sent to New South Wales, where the population had multiplied six times, so that in fact the troops now employed there were fewer than in 1792; there was also a slight increase in Jamaica, and he surely need not explain wherefore, and the expenditure on those troops was, in 1834, 16,402*l.* less than in the other favourite year, 1822. In Ireland, and even at home, there were circumstances which justified the amount of the estimates, and he preferred the gradual reduction of the Secretary at War to the sweeping reductions of the hon. member. Col. Evans took the opportunity of justifying the appointment of Mr. Gleig to Chelsea Hospital. It had been unfairly asserted that that excellent man had been the editor of a violent party paper. He (Col. Evans) begged to deny that statement . . . . Major Beauclerk hoped the House would support the right honourable secretary in his propositions, and in so doing, they would probably arrive sooner at the result contemplated by the honourable member for Middlesex, than if they acceded to the reduction proposed by himself . . . Sir H. Hardinge claimed for the late government many of the reductions in the present estimate. There was no reduction since 1830 in the staff of any colony but Jonia, and he believed that the whole amount of saving out of 6,000,000*l.* was 30,000*l.* (Hear, hear.) He would most cordially support the vote . . . . . After a few words from Col. Davies and Mr. Gisborne, the House divided—For the motion, 281; amendment, 45: majority, 236. The House then resumed. The chairman reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again. The Smuggling Act Alteration Bill went through a committee. On the motion of Lord Althorp, a committee was appointed to consider and report on the printed list of civil pensions. Bills were brought in by the Lord Advocate to regulate patronage in Scotland. By Mr. Greene, to abolish official oaths. By Mr. Littleton, to amend the act of last session, with reference to offences against the person in Ireland. Adjourned.—*Atlas, March 2.*

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.—On the question that the Speaker leave the Chair, in order that the House might resolve itself into a Committee of Supply,

Mr. COBBETT called the attention of Members to the solemn pledge given last year, that the accounts of the different departments should this year be laid upon the Table in time to allow of mature deliberation. The Army Estimates, about to be submitted, occupied 45 folio pages, and consisted of 1,100 money items; and it was the bounden duty of the representatives of the people not to vote one sixpence until full time had been allowed for consideration. If the Right Honourable Baronet now called upon the House to grant 4,400,000*l.* before three-fourths of the Members had had time even to look at the Papers, he would not be treating it as a deliberative assembly. The Estimates had only been laid on the Table on Friday when the House had gone through a precious good day's work. He (Mr. C.) had sat in it for about eleven hours; and since then, allowing only a very moderate time for eating, drinking, and sleeping, he had had only six hours for the examination of the whole of the Estimates. It would be nothing short of a crime for Members to vote away the money of the people without more time for inquiry. How did the case stand in another respect? Certain Noblemen and Gentlemen were about to bring forward a Motion on the Malt Tax, and the money to be demanded to-night could only be paid by the produce of taxes. Formerly redress of grievances preceded supplies; now the matter was reversed, and supplies preceded the redress of grievances. Other Honourable Members intended to move the repeal of the second great evil, the Hop Tax; and the third great evil was the Soap Tax. The Noble Lord said, that he and his colleagues could not spare these taxes! but it was for Honorable Members to tell the Noble Lord that their constituents could not spare the money [cheers]. He wished to have time to see whether taxes could not be repealed before the Estimates were voted. The Honourable Baronet would say, that all the money was wanted. For what? Not to make war; for all the cry now was, "Peace, peace, peace.!" Peace everlasting was on their lips. No war; no, no, no; nothing but peace [cheers and laughter]. It would be urged that the navy was the favourite service—that it was the bulwark of the country. He agreed that it was so; and he was ready to vote as much for the navy now, as had been voted during the last peace, when the Right Honourable Baronet admitted it was more efficient and better appointed than at present, and with an equal number of sailors. Just about half what was now required, was then provided by the House. All he asked was time to weigh, reflect, and compare. He did not like to work on Sunday; but had he not worked on Sunday, he should have known nothing of the contents of the book called the Navy Estimates, He appealed to the House, whether it was even decent to call upon Members to give an opinion upon papers which they had never read.

Sir J. GRAHAM flattered himself that he had made these accounts so intelligible, that it would not take the dullest Member in the House five minutes to be quite competent to judge of them. The Motion was carried, and the Speaker left the Chair

Sir J. GRAHAM, in moving the first item, said on a former occasion he had urged on the House the justice and necessity of considering what had been the condition of the country, as regarded finance, when the present Ministers came into office. At that period the annual expenditure of the country had been brought by great and honest efforts to 50 millions. Of those 50 millions, at least 35 millions consisted of items over which the Executive Government had no controul. First, the interest of the National Debt amounted to 25 millions, and the other ten millions were made up of half-pay to the Army and Navy, Civil List, and fixed allowances to retired civil servants. Therefore there remained only fifteen millions to which the strenuous exertions of the Government, in the way of economy, could be applied. In the year preceding the retirement of the Duke of Wellington, Ministers reduced taxes to the extent of 3,200,000*l.*, that having been rendered possible by a co-equal reduction of expenditure. While the present Ministers had been in office the reductions made by them had been to about the same amount as those effected by the Duke of Wellington in the years 1829 and 1830 [hear!]. The annual expenditure when they came into power was, as he had said, fifteen millions, and they had now reduced it to twelve millions [cheers]. This was a diminution of 20 per cent. upon the whole disbursements of the nation. Since the year 1830 Ministers had repealed taxes to the extent of 3,200,000*l.*, and this, added to the 3,200,000*l.* repealed by the Duke of Wellington, made together no less than 6,400,000*l.*, which had been mainly accomplished by a simultaneous diminution of the expenditure of the country. Since 1831, the reductions in the Navy Estimates alone had been no less than one million [cheers]. In addition to that saving, on the present occasion he had the honour of proposing an Estimate containing reductions to the amount of 180,000*l.* [cheers]. The reductions on the various Estimates, on an outlay of six millions, would be found not less than 1,200,000*l.*[hear, hear!]. It would not be for the convenience of the House if he went into much detail upon the items to which economy had been applied; but they were principally in the Naval Dockyards. The expensive and complicated system of task-work had been abolished, and payment by wages had been substituted. The number of labourers, shipwrights, and others had been decreased to 6,000—the number fixed by the predecessors of the present Ministers as the fit complement for a peace establishment. The wages in the dockyards had therefore been lowered 22 000*l.* out of about 400,000*l.* Another saving had been made in provisions. Hitherto, in order to meet the probable or possible advance in the price of provisions, a wide margin, as it was called, of 10 per cent. had been allowed; but as the cost of victuals had of late years been much more steady and considerably reduced, it had been determined to leave only a margin of 5 per cent. instead of 10 per cent. In this way 42,000*l.* would be saved. The House would hear of another saving with satisfaction; and here he was bound in justice to say, that it had been effected by following up a principle laid down by the predecessors of the present Government: he alluded to the reduction of half-pay. It had been a rule with the Admiralty, that only one promotion should be made for every three vacancies, and a strict adherence to this plan had produced a saving on half-pay of between 24,000*l.* and 25,000*l.* [cheers]. Other small items raised the total diminution to 181,000*l.* in addition to the large reductions in former years, which made a total saving since 1831 of 1,400,000*l.* He would now proceed with some diffidence to trouble the House very briefly on the subject of the first vote he should propose—the number of men for the service of the present year. First, he would observe, though he had suggested a diminution of 500 men, he had made an addition of 1,000 boys. He had done so advisedly, and in consequence of the suggestions and discussions of last Session, when the attention of the Admiralty was called to the fact, that it was of great importance to induce boys to go to sea for the first time in the King's service. Boys so entering acquired a decided preference to that service, and it was one of the means of supplying the navy with men without resort to forcible impressment. The men would be 17,500 and the boys 1,000; but the cost for wages would not be more than for 18,000 men, though the expence of rations would be as for 18,500 inasmuch as boys ate as much as men. This he would say, that the confidence hitherto reposed in Ministers, and the naval force placed at their disposal, had enabled them to contribute to the maintenance of the peace of Europe [cheers]. The present position of the country with relation to other Powers it was thought did not justify any diminution in the present year, and he hoped the House would not compel Ministers to discuss the particular details. With every desire to economise they were satisfied that a smaller amount of force would not be consistent with the interests of the country, or with the station it held as the first naval power of the world [hear!] If he might be allowed to add anything, is would be to entreat the House cordially and at onces to vote the number of men required; unanimity on such a subject would add greatly to the moral effect of the national strength. The House would pardon him if he did not go further, and if he marely concluded by putting into the hands of the Chairman the first Resolution—"That 27,500 menbe employed for the sea service of the year 1834, including 9,000 marines and 1,000 boys."

Mr. HUME thought that the country could well spare 6,000 or 7,000 men of the number proposed and censured the Administration for jobbing their patronage—conduct they had condemned when out of office. He (Mr. Hume) complained that out of 5,000 officers in the navy, there were no fewer than 4,000 on half-pay. If any man would take the trouble to look at the list of promotions since the peace, aye, or since the Right Honourable Baronet had been called to preside over the Naval Department, he would see how many aristocratic names were there, and how few of those who have been promoted from a regard to real merit alone. The Right Honourable Baronet had taken credit to himself and the Government, to which they were not entitled. With regard to the promotions in the service, was it not humbling to see so many deserving and meritorious men passed by, while aristocratic youngsters were pushed forward to promotion [hear, hear!]? The Noble Lord (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) had said on a former occasion, that Ministers wished to carry on the Government of the country without patronage. He would ask the House whether or not they had hitherto done so? They had not. They had carried on the Government as much as ever by means of patronage, notwithstanding the declaration of the Noble Lord that it was to be carried on without.——Lord Althorp; I never said so.——Mr. HUME. It was curious, certainly if not only he (Mr. Hume), but all the country were mistaken in supposing that the Noble Lord had made such a declaration. The Government had not fulfilled their promises of economy. He would ask the Right Hon. Baronet why, when the country was suffering so much from the pressure of taxation, there should be 27,000 men in the Navy, when the number was only from 19,000 to 22,000 from the year 1817 to that of 1822? He (Mr. Hume) conceived that the present Estimates were substantially the same as last year. Any alterations which had occurred, were to be accounted for from the changes which necessarily took place in the service. The question was not what were the Estimates last year, but what was requisite for the service of the country? The Estimates should be nothing more than were strictly necessary. If the House should go with him (Mr. Hume) in the proposition, he saw no reason why the Naval Estimates should not be brought down to those of the years 1817—1823, which were six of the most perilous years in the history of this country. He would move that the navy be reduced to the extent of 2,000 men, so as to make it equal to what it was in 1823. They would even then be 5,000 above the number in 1817, a year in which the elements of contention were to be found every where, when both hemispheres were in complete turmoil. Although he conceived the Marines were the most neglected of any portion of the Navy, yet he thought they were not necessary to their present amount, and he therefore was of opinion they ought to reduced; a reduction of 2,000 men might be made out of them alone. The Hon. Member then concluded, by moving that instead of 27,500 seamen, as at present, the number for the ensuing year should be 25,000, thereby making a reduction of 2,500.

Mr. Young, Sir Edward Codrington, Mr. C. Ferguson, Captain Yorke, and several other Members, spoke against the Amendment. The House then divided, and the original Motion was carried by a majority of 176.

The Committee then agreed to the Grants of 958,761*l.* for Wages to Seamen and Marines for the Ordinary and Craft-yard; 396,561*l.* for Victuals for Seamen and Marines for the Ordinary Yard, and Craft, &c.; 104,551*l.* to defray the charges and expences of the Admiralty Office; 21,720*l.* for the Salaries of the Officers of the Navy Pay Office; 20,885*l.* for the Scientific Department of the Navy; 119,168*l.* for the Navy Establishments at Home; 22,633*l.* for the Naval Establishments Abroad; 348,012*l.* for Wages to Artificers employed at Home; 25,515*l.* for Wages to Artificers employed Abroad; 421,990*l.* for Naval Stores, &c. for the building and repair of Ships, docks, &c.; 74,980*l.* for New Works and Improvements in the Dock-yards; 35,641*l.* for Medicine and Medical Stores; 36,154*l.* for Naval Miscellaneous Services; 149,360*l.* for the Half-pay of the Navy and the Royal Marines; 530,348*l.* for Military Pensions and Allowances; 230,258*l.* for the Civil Pensions and allowances; 180,115*l.* for Transports and the carrying of Troops, Stores, &c.; 118,300*l.* for carrying Convicts to New South Wales. The Report was then brought up and agreed to.

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